

NSC BRIEFING

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2 July 1953

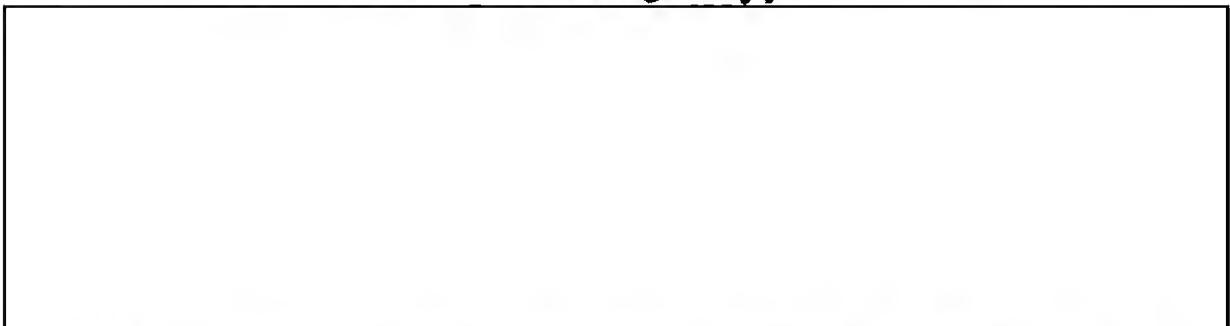
ADEN-YEMEN

I. Serious tension between Arabs and UK continues where Yemen has scored greatest success in campaign against quasi-independent rulers in Protectorate and their British protectors.

A. About half the officers and men of British-financed 300-man army of Sultanate of Lahej defected to Yemen last Thursday.

1. Defectors were led by commander of Lahej Army.

2. Defectors took arms, 8 vehicles and estimated \$ 25,000 in customs receipts - equal to two-thirds of annual British subsidy to Lahej Army.



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II. Yemen vigorously opposes current British efforts to promote federation among Protectorate states, which would serve as barrier against Yemen and might eventually become independent.



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C. Even if disease-ridden Imam, who has just taken a 16-year-old bride as his fourth wife, takes his trip to Italy planned for mid-July, Yemen-Aden tension could still be expected to continue.

D. If the Imam leaves, he plans to take his brother Hassan (who is anti-Badr) along and govern from Italy, leaving Badr at home.

IV. According to press, Badr at parade last Tuesday denounced "imperialist" military operations in "Southern Yemen," which had forced Yemen to purchase arms from the bloc.

A. First Soviet arms arrived in 1956 and Yemen has received at least \$30 million worth of Soviet military supplies.

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